

CHAMPIONS' STORIES OF THE COMING SEASON'S SPORT

MOBART AT THE NET. CHAMPION BALD ON THE WHEEL.

Amateurs Are Told How to Win at Tennis.

Last week this column contained suggestions to players of lawn tennis on the way to dress for the game, to select a racket and to obtain helpful practice. A good court is an almost indispensable condition. Without it enjoyment of the sport is greatly lessened. A series of uncertain bounds, an indistinct boundary line, or a back-stop too close, conspire to rob the enthusiast of most of his pleasure. Indeed, many will refuse to play at all under such drawbacks.

A perfect court is not such an expensive luxury as some persons imagine. If there be sufficient room for it, but it does require continuous attention. For a club, unless it possesses a lawn of considerable area, so that the courts can be changed around frequently, to prevent wearing in spots, earth courts are preferable to turf.

TURF COURTS ARE TO BE PREFERRED.
The advantages of the former are that their first cost is less, they are easier to make and keep level, do not wear out in spots, and above all they will, if properly drained, shed and absorb an enormous amount of water. I have seen earth courts firm and true after heavy storms that made good turf courts soggy and unfit to use for several days. This last is an important consideration in clubs, where, as is often the case, the members wish to play every week day.

On the other hand, it cannot be denied that grass courts are infinitely more picturesque and pleasing to the eye, and are easier to the feet. Moreover, the bound given to the ball, being shorter and lower, is usually preferred. The great majority of expert players will tell you that while a perfect turf court is unquestionably their first choice, a medium to poor one is insufferable, and they much prefer earth to anything but the best turf. The large open and invitation tournaments of the Summer are divided about equally between the two, but the championship tournament at Newport is always played on turf. It is well for the tournament player to learn to be equally at home on either.

One great objection to many otherwise admirable courts is the too close proximity of the back-stops to the base lines. Back-stops, usually made of wire netting, are set up at each end of the court to prevent the balls from wandering too far from the scene of battle. When possible they should always be at least twenty-five feet from the court at each end, insuring the players ample room in which to return balls bounding from near the base line, far outside the court.

EVERY STROKE ASSIDUOUSLY STUDIED.
In order to learn to play the game well, every stroke must be practiced assiduously, especially the one that you feel is your most vulnerable point. A few players have succeeded mainly on one pet stroke, which they have cultivated to remarkable strength, but even in these cases their greatest triumphs have been won after improving their game in other directions. An all around evenly balanced game is the one to strive for, and the one that will return the most satisfactory results.

By the rules of lawn tennis every point must begin with a serve, followed by a ground stroke. The third stroke can then be either a drive volley, lob, smash or half volley. Perhaps the most important are the serve, forehand and backhand drives off the ground, i. e., after the ball has bounced, volley and lob. The Journal artist has photographed the writer while making each of these strokes, and the cuts, which accompany this article, will assist him in explaining how they are made.

HOW TO SERVE A BALL PROPERLY.
In serving, a useful point to remember is that direction is more important than pace. Unless the service is well placed, the striker-out (the player who receives the service) will have little difficulty in returning the swiftest ball, while the exertion of driving it so hard will ultimately fatigue the server. If the latter allows the striker-out to correctly anticipate where the service is going to land, and so enable him to place himself in a favoring position, the return is likely to be far more severe and well placed than if he is kept on the jump to reach the service. If the striker-out is known to be weak on either fore or back hand, the server should favor that side, but should occasionally place the ball into the other corner, in order to invite uncertainty. One disadvantage of serving the first ball too swiftly is, that too many second services have to be delivered, on account of the first failing to fall inside the lines, and a second service must necessarily be restricted to a comparatively easy ball.

The generally accepted idea of an effective service is one that is well placed,

with medium pace, in which the first ball falls good in a majority of cases. Superfluous, preliminary motions should be avoided. I know a player who throws the ball two or three feet higher in the air than is necessary or usual, and then apparently shakes his racket at it before making the stroke. Too much cut is inadvisable, as it retards the speed of the ball without compensating advantage.

Learn to toss the ball up in the same relative position to the striking arm as exactly as possible, as the slightest deflection will change the course of the service. If thrown a little forward the served ball will probably lodge in the net, and if too far back it will overshoot the court. An underhand serve is useful only for occasional confusing cuts, which answer the purpose of a change of pace. The value of this last is understood by the baseball pitcher.

FOREHAND DRIVE IN RETURNING.
The forehand drive is usually employed in returning the service, and is made in a variety of ways. These may be divided into two classes, known as the drop stroke and side stroke, all drives being pure or modified examples of one or the other. It is not my purpose to enter here into a discussion of their comparative merits, but each has exponents and advocates among the best players. The side stroke, as its name implies, is made by striking the ball on the side with some cut, which gives it a rotary motion. When carried to the extreme, the bound is slightly affected. The side stroke experts, however, do not attain to that end, but claim that they have better control of the ball than do those who use the drop stroke.

The latter is made by striking the ball forcibly, usually near the ground on its descent, without any cut whatever, but with a lifting motion, which gives a downward shot to the ball after it has gone a certain distance. This downward shot allows of great speed in the drive, but it also increases uncertainty of execution. Cut No. 2 shows the position of the player in making the drop stroke, just before the ball is met by the racket.

ONE OF THE DIFFICULT MOVES.
A good backhand drive is a most difficult stroke to make. Few players have it under good control. The racket must be carried across the body and, without changing the grip of the handle to any great extent, the ball must be struck with reversed blade. Thus the back of the wrist and hand is turned toward the front, completely changing the character of the stroke. The position of the feet play an important part in its execution. The right foot must be carried in front of and often beyond the left foot, in order to retain the balance of the body. The limit of awkwardness and bad form is reached when this stroke is made with the feet side by side.

PLAY OF THE VOLLEY.
I am convinced that here considerable "cut" is advantageous. The Irishmen who played in this country last Summer, one of whom was the champion of Great Britain, employed an astonishing amount of "cut" in their backhand work, which was as strong as their forehand, and a revelation in its accuracy. In the third illustration the stroke is about half completed. The racket has yet to be carried through to its natural ending.

When the ball is struck before it has touched the ground, it is called a volley, except that a very severe overhead volley is termed a smash. The latter is not used so much as formerly, a fairly hard stroke being deemed safer and in the long run more useful. The volley can be made both forehanded and backhanded, at any height from the ground within reach of the player. Cut 4 shows a rather high forehand volley, which in actual play would send the ball into the opponent's left court. It is well to learn to hide from the opponent the knowledge of where you intend to place the ball. This can be done by looking at one spot, where he will naturally expect it to go, and then sending it to another. This advice applies more closely to the net game than to the back-court, because the former is at short range, and it is more valuable to be able to anticipate in what direction the ball is going, as there is less time given to reach it.

It is a curious fact that almost all players find it easier to make a low volley backhanded than forehanded, and will make it on that side in preference to the other, when it is remembered that the opposite law rules in play "off the ground." Few of the best players cut their volleys to any extent.

Clarence Hobart.

Future of Glass B Men and a Famine in Bicycles---A Crack's Method of Training for Speed.

A great deal of interesting talk has been going the rounds about the prospect of a bicycle famine within the next sixty days, and without doubt there is some foundation for it. There cannot be a great deal of smoke without a little fire, though you can raise a greater smudge in the bicycle business on a very small provocation than in any other that I am acquainted with. In spite of the fact that all the large factories are running at fuller capacity than ever before in their existence, and the additional fact that new factories, whose respective product will be measured by hundreds of wheels, have sprung up this year, the demands of agents continue unsatisfied, and makers are refusing business requests.

BICYCLE FAMINE IN PROSPECT.
This, taking place so early in the season, is a pretty sure indication of a scarcity similar to that of last year, which will prevail just as soon as the riding season

honors. There are so many theories of training held by riders who seem to get out of themselves the best that is in them that it is probable no arbitrary rules for training may be laid down for all riders to follow, even allowing the usual exceptions. What is one man's meat may be another man's poison, and a system of training that might be required to put one rider in condition would send another one to an early grave.

For myself I do not believe in continuous training when not actually preparing for competition on the track. There are riders who claim to find it necessary to train the whole year round, though they are actually competing or riding for records only about half that time. Such a rigorous course would be the death of others, at least as far as successful work on the track is concerned. An overtrained condition is worse, if anything, than an under-trained one.

of the country in which I have ever ridden. Their is a dry there as in the neighborhood of Denver, without the rarity that makes riding in Denver so hard upon the heart.

CLIMATIC CONDITIONS HAVE AN EFFECT.
This quality in the air about Denver was well illustrated in the races for the 1894 championships. Ziegler, Wells and Foster went up to Denver from their training in Southern California long enough before the races to become acclimated in a degree, and to accustom their hearts to the work of pumping blood through the system at the accelerated pace required. Johnson, Sanger, Titus, Taxis and I got there just before the races, and the results showed that the earlier arrivals, though previously accounted no better wheelmen, had found the time that they had spent in acclimating themselves to the changed atmospheric conditions a most profitable investment. Titus was fortunate enough to secure the five-mile championship, and I the half-mile, but the majority went to the earlier arrivals. These results were not in accordance with our previous records, and it was obvious to us who came late what was the reason. That country, however, seems to be capable of producing good riders, but they are men who have been born and bred there, and whose hearts are equal to the extra exertion.

FUTURE OF CLASS B MEN.
The public generally and racing men particularly, just at this juncture are anxious to know what is to be the attitude of the Racing Board of the L. A. W. toward the former occupants of Class B, who, by the recent action of the board, have been put into the amateur class. This action has already been foreshadowed. It seems to me that there is only one course to be taken in many of the cases. Last week I avowed my belief in straightforward professional races, and I can only reiterate my former statement. Class B was practically a professional class, except that its members were debarred from many of the advantages of the latter class. Now they have their opportunity to race for cash prizes as most of them would have been glad to do last season, without any restrictions upon their base of operations. No one hails the prospect of a large and excellent professional class with more satisfaction than I, or looks to it with greater certainty for results that will be valuable alike to the racing man, his employer and the public, who enjoy witnessing a closely contested race.

SOME PLAIN WHEEL TALK.
An Observation or Two on Race Conditions by One Who Knows.

Up to the present time the new Racing Board has not considered the recommendation of the National Assembly of the L. A. W. regarding the permanent suspension of F. J. Titus and L. D. Cebanne. It was the sentiment of the assembly that the punishment should be cut down to one year, in view of the fact that Murphy had been exonerated from all complicity in the affair. What the Board will do in the matter can only be conjectured, and it would not be surprising if the vote on the question failed to be unanimous. That an "arrangement" was attempted has been admitted, but since the negotiations resulted in failure it would seem that a permanent suspension was a sentence that did not fit the case.

Ever since the L. A. W., at the National Assembly, held at Louisville, barred the colored man from membership, there has been an amount of criticism directed against the national cycling body for its un-American action. An instance occurred last Wednesday at Albany, at the hearing on the Armstrong Baggage Bicycle bill before the Railroads Committee of the Senate. An attorney for one of the railroads, in sarcastic tones, drew attention to the much-discussed bar against the Afro-American. "What is this organization," said he, "which comes here asking for equal rights when it refuses to recognize the colored man. It was supposed that the war settled that matter, but this does not seem to be the case." The chairman of the committee very properly ruled that the attorney's remarks were not germane to the question at issue, but the allusion did not do any good to the cause which the league representative was espousing.

WATROUS' BIG SCHEME.

Trap Men May Have an American Monte Carlo.

In a signed article published in last Sunday's Journal, Mr. Edgar Gibbs Murphy briefly outlined the half-formed plan for the establishment of an American trap shooting club of national scope, upon whose grounds could be gathered the best of the amateur shots of America to contend for prizes richer than those of Monte Carlo. The idea originated with and was suggested to Mr. Murphy by Mr. W. W. Watrous, of Tuxedo.

The scheme seems to have taken an immediate hold upon the amateur trap shooters about New York, and has been discussed to no little extent around the city clubs. Almost at once it was suggested that a committee be formed who should take up this conception and complete all the plans and details of a perfected organization upon the lines suggested by Mr. Watrous. In an informal way, Mr. Watrous, Mr. Murphy and Mr. Fred Hoey have discussed the matter at a number of sessions and have now a fairly clear idea of what the new organization might be. Their plans are elaborate, but there is no reason why they should not be entirely successful.

AN INTERSTATE GUN CLUB.
To the Journal the gentlemen outlined the scheme. "The announcement of a committee is somewhat premature," said Mr. Murphy, "but there has been a great deal of discussion over Mr. Watrous' clever suggestion. The clubmen seem to accept the scheme and the favor with which they have spoken of it has surprised us. Mr. Watrous will give the details at greater length than I am able to do." And then the crack shot of Tuxedo and the cup winner of the Westminster Kennel Club gave the plan:

"We have taken hold of the matter quite seriously, and, after looking more thoroughly into it, have come to the conclusion that it is not difficult of accomplishment. London has two great gun clubs, which control the amateur sport of Great Britain. Paris has one, upon whose grounds all the best amateur shots of France contest. The famous ground of Monte Carlo brings together the cracks of entire Europe.

TWO MANY CLUBS ARE AN EVIL.
"Now, we have in New York and immediate neighborhood at least a dozen gun clubs, with an addition of a number of shooting annexes to social clubs. It is the custom of these clubs to give weekly or monthly days at the traps, and they generally average eight contestants on these occasions. Therein lies the evil of too many clubs. A few men continually shooting together in their respective clubs narrow the game down until two or three men in each division stand out head and shoulders above the others, and take off all the good prizes. This is naturally discouraging to the young and ambitious marksman."

"Yes," put in Mr. Hoey, "and should we promote this scheme it would bring all these men from the various clubs together and would permit class shooting, which would be fairer, more satisfactory to the marksman, produce better contests and result in increased merit at the traps."

"You know that pigeon shooting is an expensive pastime," resumed Mr. Watrous, "and to maintain these many shooting grounds costs more money than would be required to run a general club. There is rent and care of grounds, salaries of superintendents and attendants, keeping of dogs and a hundred other details to consider in the expense account of the club."

STAR EVENTS MADE POSSIBLE.
"With our American Monte Carlo, as we call it, we could have more star events than now. We might follow the lead of the London 'International' by having an interstate shoot, the events to be open to members of recognized clubs and recognized amateurs from all over America. Under the proposed plan, we could run all the events of such an affair off in one day, no matter how heavy the entries."

Mr. Murphy went into the details of a proposed shooting box, to be constructed upon entirely new and novel lines. The plan has much to recommend it to sportsmen. It embraces a commodious circular building one story high, with doors opening to the north, east, south and west upon a set of traps, so arranged that, no matter from what direction the wind might be blowing on the particular day, the birds might have the advantage of it. By shifting from door to door, a distinct change in the direction of the wind would not alter the conditions under which a shoot might begin.

INCREASED DIFFICULTIES AND REDUCED SCORES.
The difficulty of killing would be greatly increased. This, added to a proposed shortening of the boundary, would make the time consumed in shooting, would make the work harder and register fewer straight kills and scores. Fifty or sixty entries in

each of the several events would, under this system, be disposed of in less time than is now occupied by a fifth of the number.

"A glance at the scores made in London this Winter," said the champion, "will show what I mean. It is an unusual thing for a man to have to go as high as nine birds to win a sweep, five, six and seven being the average, under just such conditions as we propose. With our present method of procedure, runs of twenty-five and thirty are not unusual. Such scores would be simply phenomenal abroad, and should not be possible here."

THE ORGANIZATION UPON A HIGH PLANE.
The interested sportsmen are one in their opinion that the club should be purely a sportsman's organization, with a board of governors made up of recognized amateur sportsmen, who would appoint sub-committees of such character that the type of the organization would be kept upon the highest plane.

It has also been suggested that the constitution and by-laws of the proposed organization be so rigidly drawn that any conduct on the part of a member, which might be construed as ungentlemanly, or opposed to the interests of true sport, would of itself act as a voluntary withdrawal on the part of the offending member. The popularity of the scheme is attested already by the offering of between fifty and sixty names from the various social and shooting clubs for charter membership.

Long Island is named as the prospective home of the new organization. The membership will be drawn from the entire American trap. Among the clubs who would send competitors for the rich prizes made possible by such an arrangement are the Tuxedo, Westminster Kennel Club, Cartaret, Larchmont, Country Club, Haverstraw, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Valley Stream, New Utrecht, Washington Park, Chicago, California Country Club, and others of equal prominence. Bringing such a membership to the traps would afford New York contests in all classes of a higher grade than America has yet seen.

ANENT THE BALL PLAYERS.
Some of Dryden's Tales of the Coterie Who Are Learning Duty in the Sunny South.

Although nothing has been said out loud on the subject, the rest of the Colts cannot help but feel that Shortstop Frank Connaughton is taking an unfair advantage of them. When Frank's period of probation with the Beaneaters expired in 1894 the young man retained a shirt with "Boston" branded in large, legible letters on the bosom. To the ordinary observer there is nothing significant in this word, but when the Jacksonville patrons see Frank cowering in the shirt, the natural inference is that he is a world beater purchased from Boston at enormous cost—say \$12,000, or some such figure. Mr. Connaughton stars the shirt every pleasant afternoon, on which occasions the young men arrayed in Woonsocket, Anderson, Ind.; Newark, Lynchburg, Waterloo, Akron and Schenectady can realize that they are sadly handicapped in the race for national reputations.

When it comes to expressing an opinion, "Dad" Clarke can convey a great truth in fewer words than some philosophers who set up nights thinking that they think. In last Saturday's game "Dad's" chum, Mr. Tiernan, hit to right field for two bases in the fifth inning, with no one out. The ball went astray on the throw to short, rolling a few feet from the fielder.

Mike sprinted for third station, but was easily bagged three lengths away from that bag. He said nothing, but the observant Clarke, standing with folded arms on the coaching line, gazed thoughtfully at his unhappy associate and remarked: "Blooming-dole work."

Most men would have indulged in a long argument full of whys and wherefores and wild gesticulations, but Dad's brief review of the play ended the matter there and then. He stood silently viewing the busy scene as before, while Mike grinned and took a seat on the bench.

Answers to Correspondents.
John D. Leven.—The price of Longdale as quoted is correct.

Eatonstown.—The party you mention is a regularly licensed trainer. As to his ability, that is a matter of opinion.

J. R. B.—The dates claimed for the Banning meeting are April 18 to May 2 inclusive.

Futurity.—The Futurity course at Sheephead Bay is 170 feet less than three-quarters of a mile. It is impossible to make the comparison you ask, but is generally believed that there is a difference of about 4 seconds.



Champion Eddy Bald in the Guise of a Private Citizen.

opens. There used to be a Sunday-school story that I heard before I went to riding bicycles about an old lady whose meal barrel went broke, and a prophet who kept it full by some miraculous power. The bicycle makers no doubt wish that their "profits" could accomplish the same sort of legend, and replenish their store of wheels when they run low. With their pockets full of cash they are still powerless to increase their annual output, because that is something that they would have to go back six months to do.

But though a famine seems to be inevitable, it is probable that a great majority of those who want to ride, and can raise the cash, will be able to obtain some sort of a mount. They will ride their last year's wheel, or somebody else's. Many people, however, will not ride a model a year old, except under compulsion. The question, therefore, arises, What becomes of the old wheels? I will answer that if somebody will tell me what becomes of the old champions.

HOW TO GET INTO CONDITION.
And speaking of champions, a few words may not be amiss on the manner in which riders are wont to train for championship

For myself I do but very little work in the Winter, riding enough simply to keep my muscles from getting soft and my wind in good shape. A little light work with the dumbbells and chestweights to keep me limber and what riding I feel inclined to do I find entirely sufficient. The training for a season's work on the track I begin about two months before the time when I wish to be at my best, and this brings up the question of the best climate to train in.

This is a subject that may be treated with a great deal of latitude, and for that matter longitude as well. It makes all the difference in the world where a man has been reared, and to what conditions he is acclimated. Florida and the vicinity of the Gulf of Mexico have a climate which I find enervating. The same is true in my case of the extreme South of California. In the vicinity of San Jose the climate is ideal, and the atmospheric conditions are the most desirable. There the temperature is uniform, and the air is not so full of moisture as in the neighborhood of the Southern Gulf. A man can work longer and harder there without exhaustion or subsequent bad effects than in any part

A PICTORIAL LESSON FOR BEGINNERS AT TENNIS.

Champion Hobart poses in the five cardinal strokes in which the player must perfect himself.



The Service.

Fore Hand Drive.

Back Hand Drive.

Volley.

Lob.